

individually to and from the sea floor and swim to return to a surface support vessel without interfering with each other. A flight control system 49 is located on the surface support ship which tracks each MOBS instrument and directs each MOBS individually to prevent collisions. The flight control system directs each MOBS to the surface for retrieval by a surface support ship 48 or in swimming to a new survey location after a completed survey. The surface support vessel navigation system communicates with each MOBS and a sea floor navigation system via acoustic transponders 46, 50 and 52 to locate each MOBS and direct it to the desired location. The MOBS are identifiable by virtue of unique digital interrogation addresses which are communicated between the surface support ship and each MOBS. The surface support ship 48 locates and directs each individual MOBS controlling each MOBS descent and ascent to and from the ocean floor, much like an air traffic controller directs the landing and take off of multiple aircraft. In an alternative embodiment, two surface support vessels communicates directly with each MOBS and eliminates the sea floor transponder.

As shown in Figures 2 and 5, each MOBS fin 14 preferably has a triangular shape with three sides 20, 24 and 22. The vertical side 22 is preferably wider than the thickness dimension between the MOBS top 18 and bottom 16, so that the fins extends beyond the MOBS bottom and top to enhance digging into the ocean floor.

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In the Claims

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Please amend the claims as follows:

11. A method for deploying a seismometer comprising the steps for:

placing a hydrodynamically efficient shaped body containing a seismic device  
into water above an ocean bottom;